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DATE DIST. *J* : August 1951

NO. OF PAGES 8

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. ,

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20 July 1951

PRAVDA Editorials

The technical departments of the ministries still apply inadequately the new methods of work which have been evolved by science and advanced experience.... A number of enterprises approach the study and application of stakhanovite experience as a temporary campaign. Having taken the first steps, they stop short, satisfied with what they have done.

The main cause of the lagging behind of the "May First" works is bad utilization of the highly productive equipment. A backward technology is being applied in the works, and manual labor is being used on a large scale. Spare parts, in the process of their production, make a long journey within the works and re- run two or three times to the same lathe.

Poor production quality and spoilage of goods are attributed to the various organizations under the Ministries of Building Materials and Fishing Industries (6 July). Poor production quality is also admitted, and deplored, in a letter to Stalin from the industry and transport workers of Moscow City and Oblast (15 July). The Lipetsk Radiator Works, Sukharevsky Foundry and Kharkov Steel Plate Works are accused of delivering

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Approved For Release 2008/03/03 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000500730232-0

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defective goods to the construction sites despite the fact that the Ministry of Building Materials had already been rebuked for lagging behind the growing requirements of the national economy in both the volume and quality of production. The fishing industry enterprises are reminded of the large production losses sustained last year due to the low quality of the products, and are told that their performance has not been greatly improved:

In several enterprises of the Volga-Caspian Trust, for instance, there were cases of fish being allowed to spoil, and of the production of poor-quality produce. (6 July)

Strict observance of Party and state discipline and the proper selection of qualified cadres are suggested as the best remedy for such mismanagement in industry.

The Orel and South Kazakhstan Oblast Party committees are also subjected to sharp editorial criticism for dereliction of duty, particularly in the matter of Party and state discipline and the selection of qualified cadres, or in other words, the appointment of the wrong people to the wrong posts. The Orel Oblast Party and Executive committees are said to have failed in their executive training program. The case of the South Kazakhstan Oblast authorities—restraining criticism of shortcomings—is considered as much more serious:

When the oblast newspaper PRAVDA YUZHNOGO KAZAKHSTANA criticized the incorrect methods of work of one of the secretaries of the district committee, the secretary of the Oblast Party Committee, Yevrepesov, summoned the editor of the newspaper and warned the newspaper not to dare criticize the local executive workers. (4 July)

Fake reports, nepotism and a variety of illegal activities on the part of plant managers are mentioned in the PRAVDA editorial of 4 July. As a warning to the unnamed executives who may still be speculating in raw materials or otherwise violating the economic regulations as defined by the Government, the editorial cites the case of Kiev factory director Sostyants who was recently relieved of his duties and expelled from the Party

...because he hid the amount of surplus metal from the organs of state accounting, allowed exaggerations in the report on production, carried out illegal speculative machinations with raw materials, surrounded himself with "yes men" and introduced nepotism in the factory.

The two PRAVDA editorials (8 and 9 July) devoted to the Aviation Day celebrations emphasize both the strength of the Soviet Air Force and its peaceful pursuits. The might of the Soviet Air Force is repeatedly referred to in such passages as "the best air force in the world," "first rate air force" and "first rate planes." This applause is also extended to the peaceful exploits of the air force:

The Soviet Union occupies the first place in the world in respect to the use of aircraft in the national economy... the Soviet people exploit their aviation to a great extent for peaceful construction...at the great construction sites of Communism.... (8 July)

Apart from the familiar glorification of the Soviet Air Force and its performance in the last war, PRAVDA also claims undisputed Soviet leadership in aeronautical science in general:

...by their discoveries and inventions (the Soviet scientists) have shown mankind the way of development of aviation.

Stalin's falcons (Stalinskie sokoli, an affectionate reference to Soviet pilots)..., having the support of the best aviation science, have begun to fly farther, faster and higher than anyone. (8 July)

The Ministry of Higher Education and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR are reminded in so many words that: a) the training of young scientists is unsatisfactory, and b) science and politics are inseparable. This reminder is directed to the scientific institutes of the Tatar, Uzbek, Lithuanian and Armenian Republics where insufficient attention is paid to the selection of qualified scientific directors for the trainees.

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The latter, as a result, are left very much to their own devices, often committing such ideological errors as bourgeois objectivism.

The Scientific Council of the Institute of History of the Soviet Academy of Sciences accepted the doctor's thesis of Kinderfarbe on "the social philosophy of Charles Fourier and its place in the history of socialist thought". On closer study of this work it was found that it had been written from the position of bourgeois objectivism. (10 July)

The higher institutions of learning are once more cautioned against all forms of "Talmudism", uncritical spirit, simplification and vulgarization.

Serious flaws in the development of new power sources are dealt with in the PRAVDA editorial of 12 July, which asserts that this branch of industry is lagging behind the terms set by the plan. Inadequate socialist competition among the power workers and insufficient attention to technological improvement and stakhanovite work methods are given as some of the reasons. Another is the familiar lack of supervision on the part of local Party committees.

Ideological Perversion in Ukrainian Art and Literature

The flurry precipitated by the unsigned PRAVDA article (2 July; not broadcast) exposing nationalist tendencies in Ukrainian art and literature reveals that Sosyura's poem, "Love the Ukraine!" (Lyubi Ukrainu!), was merely a convenient peg on which to hang a blanket accusation of the Ukrainian Union of Soviet Writers. As indicated previously, the first hint of deviations in Ukrainian literature was contained in the PRAVDA editorial of 15 June, which stated bluntly that the modern industrial Ukraine was badly depicted in the novels, stories and plays of today.

The significance of the recent PRAVDA outbursts against the Ukrainian intelligentsia may be seen in the vast inflow of material from every part of the Ukraine approving the paper's justified criticism. Also significant is the resolution adopted by the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party (Home Service, 13 July) saying that the PRAVDA criticism "is recognized as justified and well-timed Bolshevik criticism of the serious defects and mistakes in the field of ideological work in the Ukraine."

The first admission of guilt comes from BOLSHEVITSKOYE ZNAMYA (Odessa, 6 July) which blames the oblast Party organizations for their failure in the political and ideological education of the intelligentsia, and points to the weak spots in the work of the Odessa section of the Union of Soviet Writers:

The absence of true criticism and self-criticism among the writers as well as inadequate self-demand are sometimes conducive to over-praising works of art which are very weak from an ideological and artistic point of view. (Russian version: otsutstvie nastoyashei kritiki i samo-kritiki sredi pisatelei i slabaya trebovatelnost privodit k tomu, chto inogda zakhvalivayutsia proizvedeniya sovershenno slabie v ideinom i khudozhestvennom otnoshenii).

The PRAVDA editorial of 7 July said that Sosyura's poem was so bad from an ideological point of view that it might have been signed by "any enemy of the Ukrainian people from the nationalist camp" but, like all the other papers, it made no reference to the contents of the poem. Another instance of what might be interpreted as Ukrainian nationalism is the opera "Bogdan Khmelnytsky" which, according to PRAVDA, "tolerates deviation from historical truth." (Bogdan Khmelnytsky was a Ukrainian nationalist leader who led the revolt against Poland for Ukrainian independence in the middle of the 19th century.)

RADYANSKA UKRAINA is the most vociferous of the leading Ukrainian papers in its criticism and self-criticism, related to ideological blunders in Ukrainian literature. In addition to charging all the Communist editors and publishers with "an atrophy of political awareness," the paper criticizes itself, as well as PRAVDA UKRAINY, for having failed to criticize the ideologically harmful verse of Sosyura's "Love the Ukraine!" The paper even goes so far as to hint that the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, its publisher, is not entirely blameless in this respect:

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This paper (RADYANSKA UKRAINA) failed to assist the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party in exposing in time the ideological perversions in literature and art... and the verse (Sosyura's poem) was frequently published. (Kiev, 13 July)

The belated Ukrainian press attack has now also been extended to the works of Rylsky, Pervomaishy and Voskryshenko, whose poem "Oh, Ukraine, My Native Land!" is said to be particularly offensive since it digresses "from the true visage of the socialist reality of the Soviet Ukraine...devoid of ideas and bereft of the feeling of Soviet patriotism."

Other Ukrainian press comment:

RADYANSKE SLOVO, Drogobych, 11 July:

A serious situation also exists in the work of our oblast press, especially that of RADYANSKE SLOVO. The editorial staff has omitted the critical article of the Moscow PRAVDA.

PRAVDA UKRAINY, Kiev, 10 July:

It is indispensable...to root out to the end any manifestations of bourgeois nationalism and all signs of bourgeois ideology.

KIROVOGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, 13 July:

The oblast cinema service is criticized for bad work...one library is attacked for recommending to its readers books with old and bourgeois ideas.

From Stalino, 11 July:

...Bolshevik criticism by the paper PRAVDA concerning the serious shortcomings and mistakes of ideological work in the Ukraine apply fully to the Stalino Oblast Party organization.

From Rovno, 12 July:

...Shortcomings in Party political and ideological education in the Ukraine, especially among the intelligentsia...also cropped up in the work of the Rovno Town Communist organization.

Criticism of Azerbaijani literature, recently discovered to be blundering ideologically, is comparatively mild; the only reference to it appears in the PRAVDA editorial of 7 July which credits the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party with uncovering the sins of the Writers Associations and taking appropriate measures to raise the ideological level of literature.

Shortcomings

Agriculture: The Stalingrad and Rostov oblasts, frequently referred to as slow-progress industrial areas, come in for some official criticism of their agricultural efforts by STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA which lists four rayons in which the performance of workers and machinery in the farm fields is far below the mark. In Perelazovsky Rayon harvesting equipment is said to be lying idle through lack of lubricants. Leaders of Kotelnikovsky rayon pay little attention to the organization of harvest work, and much time is wasted in Baikleytsky Rayon in removing the grain. Serious shortcomings are also said to exist in the Dubovka Rayon where neither personnel nor equipment has been properly organized for the harvesting campaign, and, what is worse, where political work has been badly organized.

The paper particularly deplores the inefficient utilization of combine harvesters, whose average daily productivity never exceeds 10 hectares, and suggests that poor organization may be the cause:

It is essential to change this abnormal situation and to insure that every combine-harvester work according to an hourly schedule (because) shortcomings are often caused by the bad organization of field work. (3 July)

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The Rostov MOLOT assails agricultural officials of the Romanovsky Rayon, where thousands of poods of uncleaned grain are lying in heaps and where deliveries to the State are not made. Rayon Party secretary Kurochkin, who visited those places, is severely reprimanded for not reporting the disgraceful affair and for not doing anything about it. The Martynovsky, Stepanovsky, Zapadny, Egorlytsky and Mechetinsk rayons are reminded of the very large quantities of grain they have accumulated and of their failure to do anything about delivering the grain to the State. (5 July)

RADYANSKA UKRAINA speaks of the "disdainful and criminal" attitude on the part of the Genichevsky Rayon leaders (Kherson Oblast) toward the utilization of machines: "Eleven combines are still not in use." In some rayons of Odessa Oblast all combines and machines, are not used to full capacity, and some combines are idle for long periods. (7 July)

A KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA editorial calls attention to the especially alarming situation in the construction of livestock shelters in the Guriev Oblast:

By July 1, only 6.7 percent of the annual plan for the building of sheep barns had been fulfilled, and the construction of cow barns lags behind even more. Six thousand building workers are necessary to fulfill the plan... only (one) thousand are employed. (7 July)

A letter to Stalin from the agricultural workers of the Tatar ASSR reveals that the Republic as a whole is behind plan in both harvesting and stockbreeding:

We cannot forget that our Republic is still seriously behindhand in agriculture, particularly as regards the harvest yield of crops and the productivity of communal stockbreeding.

Among other localities reporting agricultural shortcomings are Orel (low milk production), Bryansk (inadequate repairs of sorting machines and winnowers), Kirovograd (machines are idle through lack of service personnel), Kiev (low harvest yields in most of the Polesye kolkhozes), Voroshilovgrad (extremely low combine and tractor output), Odessa (great losses, slow mechanization and idle machinery) and Dnepropetrovsk (inefficient utilization of machinery).

Housing: The Stalingrad Oblast also leads the others in poor housing construction, and STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA notes that the situation is seriously alarming. The main housing construction trusts of the oblast (Stalingradstroy, Glavstalingradstroy and Zhilstroy), says the paper, still lag behind their production plans from month to month, and some of them not only fail to raise the tempo of work - they even lower it. Kirovsky Rayon, where "nearly all the buildings which have been put into operation have received an unsatisfactory appraisal", is cited as the worst example with the warning that "this situation cannot be tolerated any longer...."

According to RABOCHIY PUT (Smolensk, 11 July), there is an element of sabotage involved in the lagging housing construction of the Oblast. Charging that the construction of communal housing is far behind schedule, the paper asserts that the Smolensk City Construction-Assembly Administration, the Repair-Construction Bureau and the (Utyaginsky) Construction Trust are systematically disrupting the fulfillment of the program. The machinery on many construction sites is standing idle, says the paper, because of the lack of experienced workers and experienced workers are lacking because of the poor organization of labor and technical training.

SOVIETAKAN HAYASDAN complains that a whole series of construction organizations failed to fulfill their construction plans for the first five months of this year, but it does not name any of the organizations nor their location in Armenia. (Yerevan, 4 July)

Party Activities

A warning that the Kazakh Republican Komsomol organization must mend its ideological ways is sounded by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on 10 July, the day the Kazakhstan Komsomol convened for its fifth conference. Taking its cue from this warning, KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA criticizes the Central Committee of the Kazakh Komsomol organization for "remaining aloof from the solution of the urgent problems of ideological work among the youth," and reminds it that not a single lecture for young workers has been prepared by the lecture section of the Central Committee this year. A poor

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lecturing organization, however, is not usually a grave enough misdemeanor to call for the censure of the Central Komsomol Committee. The actual reason behind the paper's attack may be inferred from its suggested remedy:

The Komsomol committees must mobilize their forces in the struggle against the bourgeois nationalist distortions in questions dealing with the history of Kazakhstan which were revealed in PRAVDA. (14 July)

Science and Invention

Medicine: Among the new medicines reported to have been produced by the All-Union (Ordjonikidze) Scientific and Research Chemical and Pharmaceutical Institute are Fenagon and Feratizin. The first is used to reduce pain in cases of kidney colics, internal ulcers, neuralgia, and also after operations. The other, a vegetable alkaloid, is intended to reduce high blood pressure. Both remedies are now being produced on a large scale. (in Russian, 4 July)

The Bordenko Prize for successful experiments which may lead to the solution of the longevity problem has been awarded to scientist Denikhov who successfully transplanted a second heart into the thorax of a dog. (in English, 2 July)

One of the new Soviet-developed methods of treating hypertension and injuries to the central nervous system, according to Abrosov, is the introduction of a bromal compound into the organism with the aid of direct current. (TASS, 4 July)

The sleep cure method, credited to Pavlov, is now said to be applied successfully in cases of stomach and duodenal ulcers as well as during child birth. (Home Service, 5 July)

Aviation: Reiterating the familiar Soviet claim to every invention in aeronautical science, including the science itself, Academician Yuriev lists as the present outstanding Soviet airplane designers Polikarpov, Petliakov, Ilyushin, Yakovlev and Lavochkin. Designer Tupolev, whose planes usually bear his initials TU, is not mentioned. (Home service, 6 July)

The Satellite radios are sparing in their discussions of internal affairs and stereotyped, although somewhat more vehement, in their attacks on Yugoslavia. The anniversary of the death of Georgi Dimitrov occasions Satellite-Belgrade exchanges in which each side claims him as its friend. There are charges and counter-charges concerning treatment of minority groups and there are increasing Satellite references to resistance within Yugoslavia. Belgrade, on the other hand, reports internal problems in broadcasts to the various Satellite countries.

Anniversary of Dimitrov's Death

Radio Moscow makes only passing reference to Yugoslavia in comment on the death anniversary and merely says that he "undressed the criminal designs of the American imperialists and of their Titoite lackeys against the Bulgarian nation...." (25 June); but nowhere is there any mention of the reportedly cordial Tito-Dimitrov relationship.

Accusing the USSR of murdering Dimitrov, Belgrade claims that he approved Tito's stand against Cominform control:

Later Dimitrov...supported the point of view of the Yugoslav Communist Party (against the Cominform resolution) and declared to Comrade Djilas in the presence of another member of the Bulgarian Communist Party: "Stand firm!" (in Bulgarian, 18 June) Georgi Dimitrov was eliminated lest in the course of time he opposes the hegemonistic policy of the Soviet rulers. Since 1949, 13 members of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Workers Party, mostly Georgi Dimitrov's close associates, have been removed. (2 July)

The Bulgarian OTECHESTVEN FRONT rejects Yugoslavia's claim to Dimitrov's friendship:

In their dirty attempts they (the Titoites) invented lies... about an allegedly benevolent attitude of Dimitrov toward the Titoites. It is well known that Dimitrov... took a clear stand toward the betrayal of the Titoites.

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NAPRED's reference to the dispute over Dimitrov's attitude is phrased to suggest that the matter has long been settled and is therefore not even subject to discussion:

With unheard of cynicism the Titoites represent themselves as the alleged friends and followers of Dimitrov.... The Titoites, Dimitrov's enemies during his life, cannot be his friends after his death. (2 July)

Rumania

Bucharest comment on domestic affairs is fragmentary. There is practically no material dealing with industrial progress, and the only reference to agriculture is contained in a SCANTEIA editorial which alludes to collectivization setbacks and blames the class enemy for unspecified failures:

There are...both State and collective farms which do not set a good example to the other farmers.... Such practices must stop because millions of working peasants watch the collective farms eagerly awaiting to see what results they achieved and to decide, influenced by those results, whether they should join collective farms themselves. (4 July)

From Belgrade comes the report that

...in Rumania, the Soviet government had not contributed its statutory share of capital to the Soviet-Rumanian Oil Company (Sovrom), 50 percent, out of its own means, but used German assets in Rumania.... In other words, the Russians used property which the Germans had stolen from Rumania. (20 June)

Bulgaria

The Sofia radio stresses the brilliant achievements of the Bulgarian economy, which are said to be due to generous Soviet aid, but confines itself to generalities in the brief references to domestic affairs. It admits that afforestation and erosion control are in an extremely poor state, and that two high officials in the Ministry of Forests were summarily dismissed, one of them being prosecuted, for dereliction of duty.

Hungary

The Budapest radio complains of excessive drifting of manpower and lack of discipline among Hungarian workers, particularly in the building and mining industries, and admits that Soviet methods of recruiting manpower are being employed. Although the Party, trade union organizations and management are officially blamed for not taking care of the situation, the real reason appears to be the attitude of the workers themselves: "These drifting workers...are also inclined...to neglect their machines and to show insufficient enthusiasm in the fight for happier days." (15 June)

Pursuing the manpower theme, SZABAD FELD belabors the producers' groups and cooperatives, especially the larger ones, for their unwillingness to work more than eight hours a day, and says that an 8-hour work day in agriculture during the summer season is utter nonsense. Apart from that, the introduction of an eight-hour day in cooperative farming is even theoretically impossible:

Lately one can observe strange symptoms in more than just a few producers' groups and producers' cooperatives, especially in the larger ones...there is something very much wrong with these workers...only the open and secret enemies of progress and the cooperative movement...can entertain such designs (as the eight-hour working day).

The paper accordingly urges cooperative and Party leaders to launch a merciless campaign against the harmful, hostile demagoguery and the philosophy of idlers "in order that they shall be completely liquidated as soon as possible." (2 July)

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Belgrade reports that a Party purge has been in progress:

For some time past a purge has been going on in Hungary affecting both higher ranking State and Party officials as well as many ordinary citizens.

...at the last congress of the Hungarian Workers Party one third of the Central Executive was excluded from the leadership...during the past two months which elapsed since the Congress, two members of the Politburo have vanished. (25 June)

The organizers of the purge must be looked for outside: in the N.K.V.D. apparatus which keeps non-Muscovites only as long...as their influence does not exceed the permissible.... (26 June)

Czechoslovakia:

Speaking on the sixth anniversary of Czechoslovakia's liberation, Communist Party boss Slansky pays tribute to the USSR's contribution to practically every phase of Czechoslovakia's development, and says that the Soviet Union "presents Czechoslovakia with a model on which the country can shape its internal structure." This point is amplified in Slansky's reference to a subversive gang of spies and traitors within the Communist Party and to the latter's treatment of them:

The importance of this fact (Communist education of the masses) has been realized by all the Czechoslovak Communists, particularly now that a dangerous, subversive gang of spies and traitors has been discovered in the ranks of the Party, headed by Sling, Svermova and Clementis.

The Czechoslovak Communists learn from the experience of the Bolshevik Party how to carry out an inexorable struggle for principles against even the slightest deviation from the Party line.... (6 July)

Belgrade exposes the USSR's influence on education:

On the completion of elementary school and high school, all Czechoslovak pupils and undergraduates must know Russian.

The resolution (of the Czechoslovak Communist Party) also provides that in the studies on history, Masaryk and Benes are to be exposed as reactionaries. (28 June)

Poland

The Yugoslav radio reminds Polish audiences of the one-sided nature of Soviet-Polish friendship:

Polish-Soviet Friendship Societies existed in Poland, but they did not exist in the Soviet Union. Constant lectures and addresses about the Soviet Union were given in Poland, but no equivalent addresses about Poland were heard in the Soviet Union. The Russian language was taught in Poland, but was Polish taught in the USSR? (5 July)

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